SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : We are walking out.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber.)

उपसभापति : सिंगला जी, आप बोलिए ।

Provision of Two Hand Held Wireless Sets for M.Ps.

*141. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA :†
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would consider providing two hand held wireless sets, one mobile and one fixed station free, to Members of Parliament in Delhi and in their constituencies of States who desire for the same;

(b) whether this would not only make wireless more popular but also enchance the parliamentary efficiency of the Memebrs; and

(c) by when this scheme is likely to started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No scheme is under consideration of the Government in the Department of Telecomrrtunications to provide free wireless sets to Members of Parliament in Delhi or in their constituencies.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA : Madam, in fact, I am extremely happy that the former Communications Minister and the present Communications Minister are present here. The former Communications Minister really ushered in the revolution in communicaitons, and the pr Minister is an excel'

I apreciate that yc *cd* jnicate with yoi v . must congratulate tfi ,wcause you can easily talk anyone on telephone. This facility w; not available in your time in 1989 or 1990. So, don't say like that. This is tl biggest thing that has happened. I a extremely happy to express this vie\ My only point is. ...*(interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : L the Member put his question and 1 the Minister answer.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Is it question or a complimentary question?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It a complimentary question. But what your objection?

Everybody accuses the Minister, somebody compliments the Ministe why do you object to it?

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : We did nc object to the previous Minister beiri complimented. We objected to th present one only.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : O.K Let him put the question now.

SHRI V. NAR AY AN AS AMY : Th Minister is very serious in answerin questions. Let him put a question.

SHRI SURINDER KUMA1 SINGLA : Madam, since the hor Minister announced a package c concessions to rural users of th telephone facility, I would like to as him whether he could consider thi facility being offered to the Members c Parliament with which we could b more useful to their constituents? Th first point is that it does not cost much It is not a cellular facility which is ver costly and which is restricted to a fe\ cities in India. What I am saying is tha if you provide a wireless system one a home and the other in the constituency it would be very easy and the cos would be very negligible, rather thai

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Surinder Kumar Singla.

wasting our resources on physical infrastructure like needing a car to move in case of an emergency. So, that way our constituents can get to us in no time on a wireless system. What is the difficulty for the Communications Ministry to provide this small facility to us? ...*(interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let him answer.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : The answer is that he will never do it.

SHRI SUKH RAM : Madam, there is no such scheme before the Government. If any such scheme is brought before us, we will definitely consider and I will be the happiest person if some facility is given to the hon. Members of Parliament, which will facilitate their functioning as Members of Parliament. But I am told that one system costs about Rs. 8.10 lakhs. Installation may not be difficult, but the question is of its maintenance because the battery has to be charged and it has to be maintained properly. Then only can it function. So, whenever there is any such scheme brought before us, I will definitely see whatever is possible to facilitate the functioning of the Members of Parliament. That we will consider favourably.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : मंत्री जी पहले सब को टेलिफोन दे दो, टेलिफोन ठीक करा दो, ये बाद में देते रहना ।

उपसभापति : आप का नाम पुकारूं तब बोलिएगा ।

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA : Madam, the hon. Minister has mentioned the other scheme, which primarily costs Rs. 8.00 lakhs. I quote the experience of my friend who is the next member to put question. He has installed this facility and costs only Rs. 10,000 for the total equipment and only the permission has to be granted. If permission is liberally granted and if the fee of Rs. 10,000 per year is waived, we will utilise if for ourselves. It is going to be useful for our constituents and our own people. Let that minimal cost be waived and that facility provided to us. It would help us to really communicate with our constituents. This system can cover an area of 44 kilometres so that we can reach our constituency in no time.

SHRI SUKH RAM : Madam, I will get all the aspects of the scheme examined. The hon. Member, Mr. Jichkar, has brought one frequency for one purpose. I think it is for commercial purpose. But I have already said that in case it is helpful and it can be provided to facilitate the functioning of the Members of Parliament, I will definitely consider it. And if additional cost is needed, the cost of two-band hand-held cv sets will be Rs. 10,000/—. But I am talking about ten-band cv sets. It costs Rs. 8,10,000/—. As far as a two-band cv set is concerned, it costs only Rs. 10,000/ — but once the scheme is before us, definitely we will get all the aspects examined, financial, technical and how much the distance is; all the aspects will be examined.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR Madam, I am emboldened to put this question to the hon. Minister because last time when I asked a question on wireless, he not only give me an immediate assurance but also followed it up. Now he has made the ham wireless licences so liberal that one person would require ten years to get a licence. In Nagpur I got 41 licences for 41 yongsters. Therefore, I am emboldened to seek one more assurance from him. Madam, the scheme which his Department seems to have told me is from the book which the Electronic Department has printed. And they say Rs. 8,10,000/. The Department seems to have just shown this scheme to him. Now this scheme is so unrealistic that they have kept two iakhs for training and two lakhs for recurring expenditure. Only battery charging and other things come under recurring expenditure and expenditure is only 10 naye paise, 20 naye paise per day. Madam, I want to tell the Minister that I am myself operating my private system. I have a

wireless mobile in my car. I have hand held sets with me, and my men. I have a base station in my house. I have a base-station in other places of my constituency. Now it costs Rs. 20,000/— for a base station; Rs. 10,000/— to Rs. 14000/— for a hand held set. Meltron and various other electronic companies of the State Government or other private companies manufacture this set. So it does not cost much. Madam, I demand of the Minister that this facility be provided for our safety. Now commercially we have to purchase. I have to purchase the 165—175 frequency. 1 have to pay Rs. 10,000/—as royalty and Rs. 100/— for per hand-held set and Rs. 200/— for base station. Now we want a facility. Madam, I got range of 45 kms. Assaults are being made on M.Ps. daily. False phone calls are made. In the last week an hon. Member was killed. This is the minimum facility which they can provide for our safety, for our convenience. Five lakhs we are spending for a computer. Madam, this costs very little. If they want us to purchase, we will purchase. We want them only to give us a frequency. They must give us a frequency. Madam, the hon. Minister has said that there is no scheme. I am ready to give them a scheme, and I will give them a scheme. I want the Minister to give us an assurance. Immediately we will give them a scheme. Some of us will sit together and give a scheme. Will the Minister immediately consider and take a decision?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is about ham. Many people have got their ham instruments and they have their antennae and they use them. I know many people who have got this facility.

..... *(interruptions)*..... I know it. I understand this question. I have a ham in my house.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: There is nothing new in it.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Madam, I am thankful to the hon. Member. Last year or one-and-a-half years ago when he drew my attention towards this subject, I was really interested in it and I assured that all facilities would be given to those who were interested in it. But still there is one problem; that is giving of licences at the DoT level in the Centre is highly centralised. We have already requested the Home Ministry to give us permission to decentralise this so that those who want licences can be given those licences at the district level. Apart from that, if the hon. Member gives me a scheme, as I have already assured, I will definitely get it examined, what the technical, financial and other aspects are. I have already assured him that if any scheme facilitates the functioning of a Member of Parliament—I am also basically a Member of Parliament and I also need such facilities—I will get it examined and I also assure the Member of Parliament that since it involves certain expenditure. I will see to that also. All the aspects have to be taken into consideration before I come to this House with a proposal.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Thank you, hon. Minister, for your assurance.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now in this question I don't know what supplementaries can be asked because the Government does not have a scheme.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Madam, if the hon. Minister is going by the leaflet given by the Electronics Department and the brief given by the officers, I don't think it is easy for the Minister to go by that leaflet. He must have his own information. He should have collected the information and discussed it with the officers. If so, why is he going by the leaflet only? Has he got some other information?

My second question is. Madam, whether this frequency is used for security purposes or any other thing. If it is used for the security purposes, is there any possibility of this frequency being

listened to by other people whereby the movements of VIPs are traced immediately?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Ham can be used by anybody. It is for communication between amateur people all over the world. *(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: It is a very risky equipment. That is the reason why I am asking this. I have a little experience as a police officer. That is why I am asking this.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Madam, it is not on the basis of the leaflet alone that I have given the reply. I have already made it clear that if you want a system of five-band hand CV sets, its maintenance and other aspects should also be taken into consideration while preparing the scheme. Then it costs Rs. 8,10,000. But as the hon. Member, Mr. Jichkar, has already assured that he will give us a scheme. I have also given an assurance that I will definitely consider it and we will do whatever is possible.

As far as the frequencies are concerned, we have to secure a 'no objection certificate' from the Home Ministry for giving licences. As far as the other States, except Jammu and Kashmir and the seven North-Eastern States, are concerned, they have already requested the Home Ministry that they should dispense with the pre-scrutiny of the cases. I hope this will also be done. Now security consideration also has to be kept in view while giving these licences.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question. Question No. 142. *(Interruptions)* ..... There is nothing in it.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: I am on a different angle, Madam. *(Interruptions)* .....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. I don't know what is your angle on frequencies. No frequency. I don't communicate with you. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, Satishji and I have requested in writing that Question No. 154 may be clubbed with Question No. 142. *(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see, what happens if I club these questions is there will be a long discussion on it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Okay, why not?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. Then Question No. 143 will suffer. I will have to ask somebody else also. I will ask Mr. Agarwal and you also to put your supplementaries. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, unless these two questions are clubbed, proper scope would not be there. *(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will ask you to put your supplementary. *(Interruptions)*... Okay. That frequency is changed. *(Interruptions)*... We are on a different frequency. *(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: With due respect to all my colleagues, I would request the hon. Minister that before he gives any further assurance to extend further facilities to Members of Parliament, he may kindly remember that in terms of the United nations' statistics we are one of the poorest nations. Fifty per cent of our children are still without letters. Forty per cent of our population goes hungry every evening. Your entire postal system is in a mess. Millions and millions of letters, postcards, money orders, postal orders are getting piled up. Before you are able to give our people these services, I think, it is a matter of shame that you are talking of providing additional facilities to the hon. Members.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ashok Mitra, I have not identified you. May I put the record straight? A Member is putting a question whether this facility

would be provided to the Members and whether it is a cheap facility or an expensive facility. Perhaps, Members like you and me cannot afford a cellular telephone. But this hand facility is available at a particular frequency to interact with some people. This facility is costing only Rs. 10,000/-. Those who can afford, they would buy it. The Government is not going to pay any money for it. The Government is only helping interested Members to get the frequency. Members will have to pay themselves. So, please don't let an impression go that any Member in this House including me is asking for any largesse from the Government ... *{Interruptions)...*

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Whatever I wanted to say I have put it on record. Ours is a poor country.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam! ... *(Interruptions)* .....

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: You may be rich. But the constituency from where I come is very, very poor.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, some Members have taken computers. Mr. Mitra, have you taken a computer from the Parlia ment or not? *(Interruptions)* .....

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Madam, I will ..... *(Interruptions)....*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will handle it. I will handle it. Please, please, please, one minute.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: It was my question. So, I have to clarify it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I did it for you. You don't have to clarify it. .....*(Interruptions)*..... Mr. Ashok Mitra, you thought that some Members wanted some extra facilities. It is not like that. It is only a frequency which they are going to buy. If somebody can afford to buy, why should anybody have an objection to it? We need that system. .... *(Interruptions)* ..... I have already proceeded to the next question. Q. No. 142. *Boliye (Interruptions)* We are discussing about telecom facility, not West Bengal *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, why don't they return the computers? ((*Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are cross-lines *(Interruptions)....* मंत्रीजी, जवाब दीजिए ।

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Only Chandan Basu is poor. *(Interruptions)*

THEY DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Who is Chandan Basu? ..... *(Interruptions)*.....In any case, I do not know who Chandan Basu is..... *(Interruptions)* ..... I don't even

know that if Chandan Basu is a Member of this House. So, we need not mention his name. बोलिए मंत्रीजी, जवाब दीजिए ।

(Interruptions)..... Honourable Members, you don't want Q. No. 142 to be taken up.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, is Chandan Basu unparliamentary?

टेलीफोन सेवाओं में निजी-क्षेत्र को लाइसेंस दिया जाना

*142. **श्री सुंदर सिंह भंडारी :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) टेलीफोन सेवाओं में निजी-क्षेत्र को लाइसेंस देने में किन-किन नियमों को लागू किया गया है;

(ख) राज्य-वार किन-किन कम्पनियों को लाइसेंस जारी किये गये हैं और उन्हें क्या कार्य सौंपा गया है; और

(ग) इस संबधं में अन्य राज्यों के लिये क्या योजनायें हैं ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम): (क) मूलभूत और सेल्यूलर सचल टेलीफोन सेवाओं के लिए निजी क्षेत्र को लाइसेंस जारी करने के संबधं में